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SITE: Brown's Dump
BREAK: 13.1
OTHER: _____

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

JOHN A. DELANEY
MAYOR

June 14, 2001

ST. JAMES BUILDING
117 WEST DUVAL STREET
SUITE 400
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202

Dear Resident:

The City of Jacksonville is investigating several contaminated sites in Jacksonville. The City is working in cooperation with either the United States Environmental Protection Agency or the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to make these sites safe for you and your family. As we are committed to keeping the public well informed, we are writing to bring you up-to-date on each site.

Let us begin by first talking about background. Decades ago, municipal solid waste was incinerated at three sites resulting in the creation of ash:

- 1) An area near the intersection of Forest Street and McCoy's Creek Boulevard;
- 2) An area near what is now Emmett Reed Park; and
- 3) An area off St. Augustine Road on the Southside.

Incinerator ash was also found on three additional sites:

- 1) Property surrounding what is now Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School;
- 2) Portions of what is now Lonnie C. Miller Regional Park; and
- 3) An area off St. Augustine Road on the Southside.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) first looked at these ash sites in 1985 and returned for further investigation 10 years later. Since that time, numerous studies have been conducted and the main contaminant identified in the incinerator ash appears to be lead.

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JACKSONVILLE ASH SITES (including Emmett Reed Park, Forest Street and Lonnie C. Miller Park) AND BROWN'S DUMP SITE

In September 1999, the City of Jacksonville entered into an agreement with the EPA to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at four of the sites. The purpose of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study is to determine the type and extent of contamination, evaluate potential risks to human health and outline cleanup options.

In the months following the agreement, the City of Jacksonville submitted work plans to the EPA for the Jacksonville ash sites (consisting of the Lonnie C. Miller Regional Park, the Forest Street Incinerator Site and the 5th and Cleveland Streets Incinerator) and the Brown's Dump site (consisting of Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School and the surrounding neighborhood). These work plans outlined the testing necessary to complete the Remedial Investigation. The City's environmental consultant completed the activities described in the work plans and submitted the Remedial Investigation Reports to EPA for the Brown's Dump Site in October 2000, and for the Jacksonville Ash Sites in November 2000.

LONNIE C. MILLER REGIONAL PARK

More than 1,150 soil and water samples from Lonnie Miller Park were collected and analyzed. The testing revealed indications of ash covering an approximate area of 108 acres at Lonnie C. Miller and adjacent areas. Lead was found at levels above residential standards in an area covering 49 acres. This area is located between the park entrance road and the Ribault River. Other areas outside of Lonnie C. Miller Park where ash and ash/soil mixtures have been found were generally located along the western bank of the Ribault River south of Moncrief Road. Similar contamination was also found along the eastern bank of the Ribault River north of Moncrief Road in a small area that includes Charles Reese Memorial Park.

FOREST STREET AND McCOY'S CREEK BOULEVARD AREA:

More than 1,350 soil and water samples from the Forest Street Incinerator Site and the surrounding area were collected and analyzed in completing this work. The primary contaminant of concern is lead. Ash is

spread over an area of 27 acres including the original site, plus areas east and west of the site along McCoy's Creek. The thickest deposits of ash are along McCoy's Creek and range up to 10 feet. Ash is typically less than two feet thick over the balance of the site.

5TH AND CLEVELAND STREETS (EMMETT REED PARK AND SURROUNDING AREAS):

More than 1,600 water and soil samples from the 5th and Cleveland Streets area were collected and analyzed. The primary contaminant of concern is lead. Ash is spread over 36 acres confined to an area within 4 blocks of the original site. The thickest ash deposits are present at the original site and the southern portion of the Emmett Reed Park and range up to four feet thick. However, the ash is typically less than two feet thick. Ash was typically encountered in the upper six inches in areas outside the original site.

BETHUNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND SURROUNDING AREAS:

More than 1,150 surface soil and water samples from Bethune Elementary School and the surrounding neighborhood were collected and analyzed. The primary contaminate of concern is lead. Generally, areas indicating ash are confined to an area within three blocks of the school property. The ash south of the school is typically about one to three feet thick. The ash west of the school is thicker in some areas ranging from about one foot to four and a half feet thick. North of the school, along Moncrief Creek, the ash thickness is up to eleven and a half feet deep. The thickest deposits of ash are present on the school property ranging up to 20 feet deep.

The City of Jacksonville believes that sufficient information has been gathered on the Jacksonville Ash Sites and Brown's Dump to move forward with cleanup. However, the EPA has requested additional sampling to further define the boundaries of contamination. The additional sampling requested by the EPA could delay cleanup by as much as 12 months. In an effort to speed up the project, the City of Jacksonville submitted a proposal to conduct limited additional sampling, which is currently under review by the EPA. If the City's proposal is approved, the limited additional sampling could be completed within three months.

Once EPA has granted final approval of the Remedial Investigation Report, and completed the Base Line Risk Assessment detailing health risks to the community, the Feasibility Study will be developed. It will take approximately four and a half months to complete this study. The EPA will then select what cleanup option will be implemented. Over the next four months, design drawings and specifications will be prepared and cleanup will be implemented. Actual completion time for cleanup will vary depending on the cleanup plan chosen.

SOUTHSIDE INCINERATOR (off Clydo Road near St. Augustine Road):

The City of Jacksonville entered into an agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to perform a Contamination Assessment Plan/Report for the Southside Incinerator site. The purpose of the Contamination Assessment Plan/Report is to determine the nature and extent of contamination.

The City's consultant submitted a Contamination Assessment Plan to FDEP in April 2000. The Contamination Assessment Plan was approved by FDEP and work began earlier this year. To date, soil testing and laboratory analysis have been completed at this site. Also, trenching of a suspected separate ash disposal area, in the vicinity of Larsen and Linder Streets, has been completed and confirmed the presence of ash. Preliminary results indicate ash is present within the top two feet of soil. Additionally, having studied the flow of the site's groundwater, a proposal for the permanent monitoring of groundwater is being submitted to FDEP. Computer modeling has been used to determine which areas may have been impacted by particulate fallout from the incinerator while it was in operation. This information, as well as proposed background sampling locations, has been submitted to FDEP for review and will be implemented upon receipt of their approval.

FDEP granted conditional approval for determining the extent of the ash. Unfortunately, the conditions they imposed were not deemed practical by the City's consultant. The City has submitted a technical memorandum to address this issue and once resolved, testing will begin.

The City of Jacksonville is taking a proactive approach to all the ash sites. The Duval County Health Department has expanded blood lead level analyses and testing of children under the age of six (considered the at-risk age group) living near the sites to determine if any unusual health conditions are occurring. So far, test results of more than 900 children indicate that there is not an elevated lead rate detected. We have taken several steps to ensure public safety, including:

BLOOD TESTS OF CHILDREN

The Duval County Health Department will give free blood tests to any child under the age of six to test for lead. Parents will get the results of the blood tests mailed to them within two weeks of the tests. Parents can call the Health Department at 381-6040 to arrange testing. The Duval County Health Department will also make blood tests available to daycare centers in the four areas, free of charge. Daycare center administrators can call the Health Department at 381-6040 to arrange testing.

TESTS OF WELL WATER

Residents on well water in the affected areas can get their well water tested by the Duval County Health Department free of charge. Residents can call 630-3272.

SOIL TESTS

Residents in the four areas who would like soil from their property tested can call 381-6040. The Duval County Health Department will test the soil free of charge. Residents will receive a letter with the test results, recommendations and health education within four weeks from the day the test is conducted.

FREE GROUND COVER

If a resident receives a recommendation from the Health Department to increase the amount of ground cover on areas of their property, the City will provide free ground cover.

ADDITIONAL GROUND COVER AT CITY PARKS

The City of Jacksonville worked with the Duval County School Board to ensure proper ground cover under play equipment at Bethune Elementary School.

The Park Maintenance Division of the Parks, Recreation and Entertainment Department also increased the amount of ground cover on the playgrounds at Lonnie Miller Park, Emmett Reed Park and Forest Park.

WARNINGS FOR CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

Anyone applying for a construction permit in the areas will receive a warning notice explaining the potential problems and recommended precautions from the City's Building and Zoning Division.

UPDATES

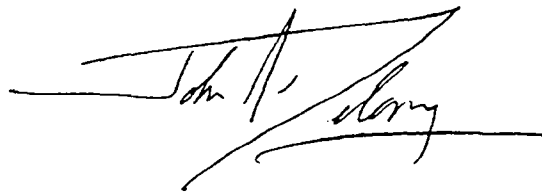
We are providing residents in the areas with a status update by mail. Residents who would like to be added to the mailing list can call 630-4747.

HOTLINE

We have established a hotline to answer questions. Residents can call 630-ASH7 (630-2747).

We recognize that this process has been slow. We are doing our best to move forward while still putting the safety of the community first. We appreciate your patience in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Delaney", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

John A. Delaney

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